

Subject: January 2017 in Review: LA Approves Bid for 2024 Olympics; Plan to Regularly Update Community Plans Moves Forward; Protecting Immigrant Rights; Night on Broadway Recap

From: Councilmember Jos Huizar

Date: 2/3/17, 1:59 PM

To: Ellen Endo



January 2017 in Review

Dear Friend,

In January, the City of Los Angeles took actions that affirm who we are both as Angelenos and Americans. The City Council approved a bid for Los Angeles hosting the 2024 Summer Olympics and in CD14, my office hosted our 3rd Annual Night on Broadway, which highlighted the City's strength as a diverse community.

As Chair of the City's Planning and Land Use Management Committee, we took steps to renew every six years the City's 35 Community Plans – which dictate growth guidelines in our distinct neighborhoods. Currently, it can take decades to renew Community Plans.

Also, in light of recent federal actions, I was proud to help oversee as Vice-Chair, the City's first Immigrant Affairs Committee to begin to take steps to legally assist our sizable immigrant community who are intertwined in every facet of civic, economic and cultural life in our City. The City Council also voted to decriminalize street vending to protect immigrants, and to work on a final ordinance to, at long last, legalize street vending.

Read below for details on these actions and other important things we're working on in CD14.

As always, please [contact my office](#) with your concerns, comments, or questions.

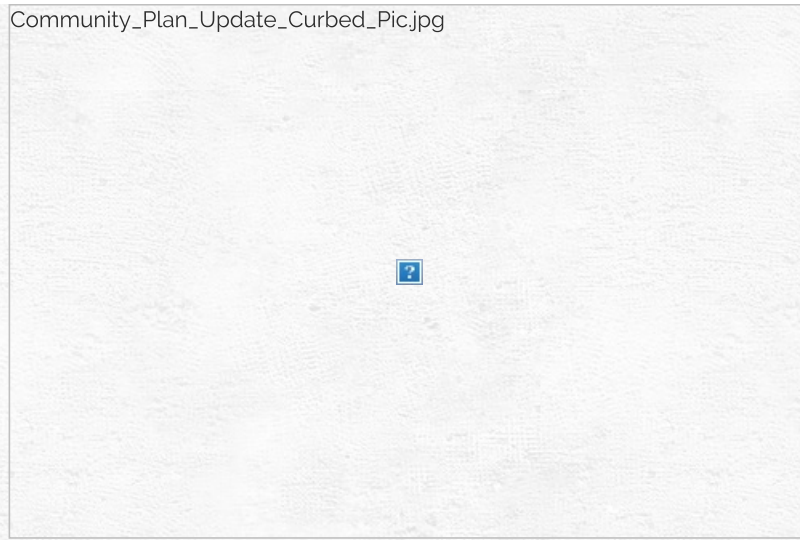
All the best,

José

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Strengthening City Planning Processes to Protect Neighborhoods



As the Chair of the City's Planning Committee, Councilmember José Huizar heard a planning report Tuesday, January 31, in the Planning & Land Use Management Committee to reform the City's Community Planning process overseeing growth and development guidelines throughout the City of Los Angeles.

Huizar and the committee made a number of recommendations, including:

- [calling for an ordinance mandating to update the City's 35 Community Plans every six years](#);
- calling for annual funding for the plan be established via ordinance by Fiscal Yr 17/18
- Increase transparency and public confidence by requiring developers seeking a General Plan Amendment (GPA) select Environmental Impact Report (EIR) consultants from a pre-approved City of Los Angeles list. Currently developers are free to hire EIR consultants of their choice.
- Require that all future project specific GPA's be processed in batches (or groups) on a semi-annual basis, so that the City and communities can consider multiple development projects in a neighborhood and their potential impacts more comprehensively.

The City's 35 Community Plans lay out guidelines for what can and cannot be built in any given neighborhood. This helps determine the different types of housing that can be developed, the jobs that can be supported in a community and other key quality-of-life measures.

In the City of Los Angeles, 29 of our 35 Community Plans are 15 years old or more, including several that are reaching 20 years this year. In the past 10 years, only three Community Plans have been updated. Six others are in the process of updating.

"Our Community Plans affect scores of communities, each as distinct and vital as the next, and we must require that these plans are regularly updated to allow stakeholders to weigh in on what they want their communities to look like," said Councilmember Huizar. "We need to expedite this process so we can bring accountability and transparency back into our General Plan and Community Plan review processes – the public deserves no less."

In April, Mayor Garcetti supported a Council motion calling for a Community Plan overhaul written by Councilmembers Huizar, Cedillo, Ryu, Blumenfield, O'Farrell, Bonin and Krekorian. The Mayor also offered to work with the City Council to support adding staff and funding to ensure an expedited community plan update program. Tuesday's committee action solidifies those plans.

The Plan is expected to go before the full City Council to vote on approving the ordinance in the next two weeks.



As vice chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Immigrant Affairs, Councilmember Huizar helped oversee a [packed chambers](#) for the committee's first meeting. Hundreds of L.A. residents were in attendance and more than 250 voiced concerns over how national, anti-immigrant policy may affect the lives of so many in Los Angeles.

Councilmember Huizar and the rest of the committee approved six items to begin working on efforts to create and shore-up City policy to legally protect our considerable immigrant community from an overzealous federal government. The impacts of such actions by the federal government could negatively impact all Angelenos, as immigrants are critical to all aspects of the civic, cultural and economic life of our great City.

City Votes to Legalize Street Vending



The Los Angeles City Council voted in favor Tuesday of a proposal by Councilmembers Curren Price, Joe Buscaino, and José Huizar to legalize street vending in the second largest city in the country. The proposal requested to fast-track an ordinance to decriminalize street vending in the wake of recent federal actions, while a report is prepared on how to implement the street vending program and an ordinance is written.

Councilmember Huizar co-introduced a motion with Price in 2013, which Buscaino seconded, calling for a legal street-vending program in the City of Los Angeles

"It is appalling that Los Angeles is the only major U.S. City that does not allow sidewalk vending," said Councilmember Huizar. "These people are not asking for a handout, they are asking for an opportunity to lift themselves up and provide for their families."

[KTLA Story Here](#)

Los Angeles Farmers Markets Now Required to Accept EBT



The Los Angeles City Council voted in January to approve an ordinance authored by Councilmember Huizar [requiring all farmers markets within city limits to accept low-income Electronic Benefit Transfer cards \(EBT\) as payment](#). This new policy will help ensure that all L.A. residents have access to fresh, healthy food.

Under the ordinance, EBT acceptance will be a condition of approval for all farmers' market permits. This comes at no additional cost to the market or the individual vendor.

"The City of Los Angeles has neighborhoods that are 'food deserts,' where it is difficult for residents to access fresh food and produce," said Councilmember José Huizar. "No child should be denied access to foods that will benefit their health and ensure a strong and healthy life, no matter where they live."

Many of these "food desert" communities are low-income, and studies have shown these same communities suffer disproportionately from lifelong diseases stemming from obesity and poor diet. Farmers markets are not only an effective way to bring healthy food to communities that need it, but they can help fight debilitating chronic conditions.

There are currently a total of 58 certified farmers' markets in the City of Los Angeles, and since this ordinance was proposed in 2016, participation among operators has skyrocketed and there is now a near 100% voluntary compliance rate in accepting EBT as payment.

Huizar's EBT motion was proposed with the assistance of the Los Angeles Food Policy Council and the Los Angeles Community Action Network (LACAN). It was heard in the Entertainment and Facilities Committee under the leadership of Councilmembers Nury Martinez and Mitch O'Farrell.

L.A. City Council Approves Bid for 2024 Olympics



Councilmember Huizar and the L.A. City Council voted unanimously to approve the City of L.A.'s bid for the 2024 Olympics last week. At the Jan. 25th vote, Council Chambers was

packed with former Paralympians and Olympians, including soccer superstar Cobi Jones, figure skater Tai Babilonia, speed skater Apolo Ohno, and track star Michael Johnson.

Los Angeles is now in the final running to host the games, competing against Paris, France and Budapest, Hungary. If L.A. is selected, it will be the first time since 1984 that the international competition was held here. Councilmember Huizar enthusiastically supports the effort to bring the Olympics home and said it would be an honor to host professional athletes from all over the globe.

Downtown's Historic Pope of Broadway Mural Restored



Councilmember Huizar, along with several art advocates including actor Edward James Olmos, came together to celebrate the [newly restored Pope of Broadway mural](#)! The historic, 70-foot work-of-art by artist Eloy Torrez pays homage to actor Anthony Quinn, as well as Broadway's Latino history. Truly one of Los Angeles' seminal murals, the piece had faded and peeled since its initial installment in 1985. Councilmember Huizar secured \$150,000 in community benefits funding from Greenland USA through their DTLA Metropolis project and brought in the [Mural Conservancy of Los Angeles](#) to work with Torrez and artist and mural restorer, Art Mortimer, to bring the beautiful piece back to life. Special thanks to Isabel Rojas-Williams, Valentina Castellani and the late Francesco Quinn for their advocacy.

See additional coverage of this extraordinary mural and restoration project at the [LA Times](#), [ABC7](#), [Downtown News](#), [CurbedLA](#), and [LAist](#).

Huizar and Garcetti Push to Extend Metro Rail Service to CD14



Thank you Arts District residents! Your help and input led to the collaboration between Councilmember José Huizar and Mayor Eric Garcetti to push for an extension of the Metro Purple Line all the way to 6th Street. This extension would better connect Boyle Heights, the

6th Street Bridge, the LA River bike path, and the Arts District, to the rest of the City of L.A. The mayor presented a motion this month at the LA County Metro Board to examine the options for expanding this Metro L.A. Rail service. Special thank you to L.A. County Supervisor Hilda Solis, L.A. City Councilmember Mike Bonin, and MTA Board Director Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker for all their support on this issue!

'Night On Broadway' Draws 75,000 to Celebrate Historic Theater District



Photo: LAist

This year's Councilmember Huizar's Night On Broadway celebration drew 75,000 Angelenos to Downtown Los Angeles for what has become the fastest-growing one-day arts and music festival in North America. It was a beautiful evening, celebrating the 9th Anniversary of Huizar's Bringing Back Broadway initiative, and a true reflection of the diversity our City is known for - people from all walks of life coming together to celebrate what it means to be Angelenos

For the third year in a row, Night on Broadway took over Downtown Los Angeles' historic Broadway corridor, transforming the street into a mile-long car-free, pedestrian friendly street festival featuring hundreds of acts, including performances on 10 stages in the street and in six of Broadway's historic theaters - venues whose revitalization are the cornerstone of the Bringing Back Broadway initiative

Thank you to everyone who came out and enjoyed Broadway's history as we celebrate its future - we're already looking forward to next year, which will be a milestone, the 10th Anniversary of Bringing Back Broadway!

Check out photos and news coverage from the event:

- [CBS/KCAL Night On Broadway Celebration](#)
- [Downtown News' Gary Leonard's Slide Show](#)
- [Electronic Urban Report: Hip Hop Pioneers Lit Up LA's Night on Broadway](#)
- [LA Weekly Slide Show](#)
- [LAist Slide Show](#)

Councilmember Huizar and Clean Up Green Up Receive Sustainability Award

At their 7th Annual Awards Social, the LA Sustainability Collaborative honored Councilmember Huizar and our Clean Up Green Up partners for their [environmental leadership and advocacy](#). Now, more than ever, the City of LA must stand up to protect the environment. Climate change is real! The Los Angeles Sustainability Collaborative is building the next generation of LA's environmental leaders and we'll need them today, tomorrow, and always.

Vision Zero Action Plan Released



In January, with the [release](#) of the LADOT [Vision Zero Action Plan](#), we doubled-down on our commitment to reaching zero traffic-related deaths in the City of LA. The Action Plan includes advancements in pedestrian safety, as well as an array of innovative, complete streets strategies that were piloted in our very own CD14!

Thank You to CD14 Homeless Count Volunteers!



Councilmember Huizar and his staff want to give a huge shout out to the hundreds of CD14 volunteers who came out and participated in the [2017 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count!](#) The count is a vital tool that helps the City, County, State and Federal government plan for services and funding for those individuals experiencing homelessness. Here, volunteers gathered for training at Eagle Rock City Hall before heading out. Thank you CD14 volunteers!

Bonin, Harris-Dawson, Huizar Share Elected Streetsie Award



Los Angeles Streetsblog named Councilmembers Huizar, Mike Bonin, and Marqueece

Harris-Dawson their [Elected Officials of the Year](#) in their 2016 Streetsie Awards.
Councilmember Huizar couldn't be more proud to be recognized alongside two colleagues who are doing so much to make the City of Los Angeles a better place for all of us!

Councilmember José Huizar
<http://www.josehuizar.com/>

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